



perfectly pawleys

By Katie McElveen



There's a reason families flock to Pawleys Island:

uncrowded beaches give children room to throw Frisbees and build sandcastles, and, on the marsh side, twisty waterways are perfect for casting nets for shrimp, crabbing and kayaking. But it isn't just the kids who are having fun on Pawleys. Sophisticated restaurants, great shopping, golf and a spate of other activities make the area perfect for an adult getaway, too. Which is exactly why we're here.



For our mini-vacation, my husband and I checked into Litchfield by the Sea, an oceanfront resort where bike paths wind through groves of palm and oleander to pools, tennis courts and a wide, inviting beach that stretches for more than seven miles. Although we could have chosen a villa or Charleston-style house, we opted for one of the resort's mid-rise condos, which offer sweeping views of the Atlantic and, from the back porch, a serene salt marsh.

Days follow the rhythm of the waves on Pawleys, and we spent ours riding bikes along the beach (hard-packed sand resembles a road, only with much better scenery), dozing in chaise lounges with our toes in the water and exploring the area's shops, restaurants and cultural offerings. Although Myrtle Beach's swirl of activities is just up the road, there's plenty to do right in the neighborhood.

With holes that play along the Waccamaw River, salt marshes and marine forests, nearby golf courses, such as The Heritage Club and the Jack Nicklaus-designed Pawleys Plantation, are some of my husband's top choices. While he golfs, I shop, often at The Hammock Village, an outdoor shopping area shaded by centuries-old live oak trees. Here, oyster shell paths lead to boutiques like Island Shoes and Harbor Specialties, which carries all things nautical, as well as to the Hammock Pavilion, where artisans weave famous Pawleys Island hammocks by hand from seemingly endless lengths of rope.

Murrells Inlet, near Pawleys Island, is home to Brookgreen Gardens, the oldest and largest sculpture garden in the United States.

Originally the estate of Archer and Anna Hyatt Huntington, the 9,000-acre property displays hundreds of works by artists such as Frederic Remington, all perfectly placed within outdoor galleries graced with stately trees, peaceful ponds and lush plantings.

Although it's tempting to spend our evenings eating fresh shrimp on the balcony as we gaze out at the endless ocean, we can't ignore the draw of some of our favorite restaurants. One is Frank's Outback, where we feast on roasted rack of lamb and crab cakes under a canopy of trees set with twinkling lights. During the winter, when a fire roars in the stone fireplace, it's particularly romantic. We also enjoy the brick-walled courtyard at Bistro 217, where live music is the perfect accompaniment to grilled local grouper and Asian-scented duck. At lunch we'll often find ourselves at Landolfi's Bakery & Deli, which turns out incredible wood-fired pizzas along with authentic Italian pastries, or at Captain John's Seafood Grill for fried oysters. All too soon, it's time to leave. With sand in our shoes and smiles on our faces, we make our way home, knowing we'll be back soon. 🌿

Find Out More in PLACES...
Pawleys Island, page 97

